

5 October 1981
MSK-1016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Seoul Bureau--September 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The recent addition of a new Korean monitor allowed the Bureau to initiate a long-planned survey of North Korean regional radios. The initial portion of the survey involves 11 stations (the radios in the provincial capitals and two other major cities), but it will ultimately encompass virtually all audible DPRK stations. Program content is presently being sampled from the first 11 stations, most of which carry original programming at 0500 and 1100 GMT. Results of the survey will be forwarded to FCS and AG.

B. Lateral Services

The Bureau has begun supplying copies of Moscow Korean program summaries and processed items to the local ICA office. The ICA request was prompted by the recent increased attention to Soviet propaganda activities worldwide.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. The question of grade classification for Bureau positions remains unresolved. The State Department ruled against the supervisory structure proposed by the Bureau for its monitorial units, but a rebuttal was presented to the Embassy Personnel Officer during the month for forwarding to Washington for reconsideration. The Personnel Officer and Admin Counselor are sympathetic to the Bureau's position, but the ultimate authority for determining grades rests in Washington.

2. The Embassy's new local wagescale, which was effective on 9 August, was finally distributed during the month after programming problems with the Embassy's computer were worked out. The Embassy local employees association expressed disappointment with the size of the wage increases, which ranged by grade from 14.5 to 22 percent, but the Embassy felt the employees got appropriate increases and rejected the complaint.

III. VISITS

1. Ambassador Richard Walker, accompanied by his Special Assistant, visited the Bureau on 3 September for a briefing on Bureau operations. He was particularly interested to learn that the Bureau now has a North Korean analyst among its staff, something he felt would be of great benefit to the Embassy.
2. Embassy Political Officers David Straub and Ken Quinones, accompanied by Francis Park, the head of the Embassy's new Korean-language program, visited the Bureau on 17 September for a briefing and discussion on Korean political affairs with Bureau monitors.
3. A Headquarters Safety Inspector conducted a safety/health inspection of the Bureau on 22 September. He made a few minor recommendations, which are presently being implemented.
4. Chief of Operations [redacted] visited the Bureau 22-25 September as part of a regular Far East inspection tour. STAT

[redacted]

STAT

Chief, Seoul Bureau, FBIS'

Attachments:

Production Reports
Engineering Report

cc: Chief, [redacted]
Chief, Okinawa Bureau

STAT